

ing, but of critical scientific discernment we find but few traces. In short the presentation is marred by the advocate's attitude and *parti pris* spirit.

On page 167 the author in discussing the relative merits of electricity and operative procedures in the treatment of uterine fibroids says: "With a mortality of one in four (by surgical removal) in the most skilled hands," etc. "Successful removal of the tumor necessitates removal of the ovaries also, thus destroying the distinctively feminine characteristics of the individual; produces a weak spot in the abdominal wall leading to hernia," etc. The statement with reference to the mortality of operations for fibroids clearly shows an ignorance which to say the least is appalling. We urge the author to look over the statistics of Olshausen whose mortality in 806 cases was 5.6% in 1897; those of Kelly with a mortality of 2% and those of countless others who have had equally excellent results. So far as the necessity for the extirpation of the ovaries is concerned the author's statement is equally inexact, and as to the occurrence of hernia this complication is nowadays a rare occurrence in the hands of clean and experienced operators.

Disappointing as is the general presentation of the subject we elect for strongest condemnation chapter XV, in which the author advises the cataphoric method for the treatment of mammary cancer. Statements such as this, "The major application of the zinc-mercury cataphoresis offers a most effective method for the destructive sterilization of mammary cancer in its early stages, enabling the operator to destroy all infected portions of the gland at once, without risk of the infective cells gaining access to the lymphatic spaces, as may happen in a cutting operation" are astounding. Any advice short of a radical operation by the knife in operable cases is certainly the result of the crassest ignorance if not indeed criminal. How any medical man in this day can take any other position with reference to this question is incomprehensible.

Of the absurdity and danger of the views of the author with reference to ectopic pregnancy we shall say nothing, fearful of insulting the intelligence of our readers, nor shall we comment on the views expressed on the subject of rectal cancer or many other conditions. Much that we have in mind is best left unsaid, for your sake, gentle reader, not the author's.

A. J. L.

Appendicitis and Other Diseases of the Vermiform Appendix. By Howard Kelly, M. D. J. B. Lippincott Company. 1909.

At the time of the appearance, about four years ago, of the first edition of this volume it was extensively reviewed, the reviews on the whole being very favorable although certain features were freely and justly criticized. These related mainly to the practical side of the subject especially the surgical handling of cases, particularly suppurative cases. In the present edition, however, the author has considerably revised the sections dealing with this phase of the question to meet the needs of most men who would care to undertake the reading of so comprehensive a work. With the reviews of the first edition still in mind it seems scarcely necessary to go again into a detailed analysis of the book.

As in the earlier reprint considerable space is devoted to the consideration of the anatomy and pathology of appendiceal affections; likewise the clinical manifestations of the various types of appendicitis are extensively dealt with, and the surgical treatment advocated represents in a general way the position of most operators. While probably of not very great importance in practice on account of their rarity the various primary neoplasms of the appendix are well considered although as yet our knowledge of these growths is not very considerable. Altogether, the book is an excellent résumé of our knowledge of appendiceal lesions, their clinical

manifestations and operative treatment. Although not indispensable to the surgeon a careful study of it will amply repay any medical man who takes the trouble and time to do this. In the matter of illustrations we here have another example of the high standard of graphic art made possible by the skill and intelligence of Broedel and his co-workers.

A. J. L.

Legal Medicine and Toxicology. By R. L. Emerson, A. B., M. D., member of the Massachusetts Medico-Legal Society; formerly Instructor in Physiological Chemistry, Harvard University Medical School, and Assistant in Clinical Pathology, Boston City Hospital. D. Appleton and Company. 1909. New York and London.

This, the latest work on legal medicine, contains an admirable account of the subject, especially from the standpoint of practice in this country. Adapted as much as possible to the practical needs of the practitioner who may now and again suddenly find himself confronted with a medico-legal case, the author has at the same time given a most succinct description of the principles and practice of forensic medicine from the modern standpoint. In fact, we know of no single volume in the English language which gives so scientific and clear a résumé of this altogether too much neglected subject. Not only is the work reliable in statement of facts, but the literary style is deserving of highest commendation. In short, here we have a volume which we recommend to all medical men whether interested in the subject by choice, or by power of the law.

A. J. L.

A Manual of Practical X-Ray Work. By David Arthur, M. D., D. P. H. and Jno. Muir, B. Sc., M. B., Ch. B. & B. Sc. Rebman Co., Publishers, New York.

This small book has a great deal of practical information. The sections which explain the various means used to obtain the X-ray are particularly plain. The table giving the times for exposure is a useful one though the time given for the hip in comparison to a chest plate seems rather short. This is also true in the kidney and ureteral work.

The use of the iris diaphragm is strongly recommended but we consider the tube diaphragm far superior and in some instances indispensable. The fact that this device is not used is perhaps accountable for the statement (so opposite to our experience), "Radiography of the ureters presents great difficulty and results in search for calculi in them are still very uncertain."

Much of the work in England seems to be done with the tube below the patient, a method of procedure in which we fail to see any advantage. The paragraphs devoted to the interpretation of plates are short, so short that they are of little service to any one not already familiar with plates and the points mentioned. The therapeutic portion is conservative and reliable.

G. L. Painter.

Confessions of a Neurasthenic. By Wm. Taylor Marrs, M. D. By F. A. Davis, Publishers, Philadelphia.

Atlas and Text-Book of Human Anatomy. Volume I. By Professor J. Sobotta, of Wurzburg. Edited, with additions, by J. Playfair McMurrich, A. M., Ph. D., Professor of Anatomy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Quarto volume of 258 pages, containing 320 illustrations, mostly all in colors. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company. 1906. Cloth, \$6.00 net; Half Morocco, \$7.00 net.

This is a handsome book and is of unquestionable value in the study of anatomy. It is beautifully il-